GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:361
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2015
UK's New Immigration Rules
Hari Shri G.

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact nurses from India could be forced to leave the United Kingdom (UK) under new immigration rules;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government has taken up this issue with the UK Government to protect the interests of Indian nurses in UK; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

(a) & (b): The new immigration rules to delink working in the UK with indefinite leave to stay in the UK were introduced by the UK Government in 2012. The new rules will come into effect from 6 April 2016 when it will be mandatory for those applying for settlement in the UK to be in receipt of an annual income of at least Â£35,000. These new rules are not specifically targeted at immigrants from India but apply to all non-EEA (European Economic Area) workers. Although, official data specific to Indian nurses are not available, a report of the Royal College of Nursing, London, has suggested that the new immigration rules may lead to exodus of nurses of various nationalities after completing their work in the UK.
(c) & (d): High Commission of India (HCI), London is in touch with the UK authorities to ascertain the impact of the changes in immigration rules on Indian nurses in the UK. It is actively engaged with the Indian associations in UK to make appropriate presentations to the UK Migration Advisory Committee.